

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091852

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: STRATTON SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

THE DEPARTMENT HAS OBTAINED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS A COPY
OF A REPORT WHICH THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF
THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE (STRATTON SUBCOMMITTEE)
EXPECTS TO SUBMIT TO THE FULL COMMITTEE IN ABOUT TWO
WEEKS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS SECTION OF THE REPORT IS
REPRODUCED BELOW FOR THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION ONLY.

BEGIN TEXT

1. THE SUBCOMMITTEE STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE OBJECTIVE
OF MODERNIZING KOREAN ARMED FORCES AND INCREASING THEIR
CAPABILITY OF ASSUMING A GREATER SHARE OF THEIR OWN
DEFENSE AGAINST POSSIBLE AGGRESSION FROM THE NORTH.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 091852

2. WE RECOMMEND THAT NO U.S. GROUND FORCES BE WITH-
DRAWN FROM KOREA WITHOUT THE TRANSFER TO KOREAN GROUND
FORCES OF THE APPROPRIATE COMPENSATORY EQUIPMENT NECESSARY
TO MAINTAIN CONTINUED DETERRENCE AND TO PROTECT REMAINING
U.S. GROUND FORCES. SUCH EQUIPMENT TRANSFERS MUST BE MADE
SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE SO AS TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE
TRAINING OF SOUTH KOREAN TROOPS IN THE USE OF

THE TRANSFERRED EQUIPMENT AND THEIR DEPLOYMENT INTO ADEQUATE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

3. THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF 6,000 U.S. TROOPS FROM KOREA CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER, PROVIDED CONGRESS ENACTS BEFORE THAT DATE LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF THE ESSENTIAL COMBAT EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS 6,000 INCREMENT TO THE KOREAN FORCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING COMBINED U.S. AND KOREAN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ALONG THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE AND TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE REMAINING 24,000 U.S. TROOPS.

4. ANY FURTHER WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNTIL AND UNLESS:

A. THE U.S. COMMANDER IN KOREA CERTIFIES THAT THE COMBAT CAPABILITY OF THE REMAINING US/ROK FORCES WOULD NOT BE DEGRADED BY SUCH WITHDRAWAL.

B. THE PRESIDENT REPORTS FULLY TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS ON THE MILITARY BALANCE IN KOREA, AND ON THE PRECISE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN WAR, AND THE PROGRESS THAT HAS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 091852

BEEN MADE.

C. THE CONGRESS, BY APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION, HAS CONCURRED IN THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL ACTION AND APPROVED CORRESPONDING "COMPENSATORY MEASURES", INCLUDING THE FURTHER TRANSFER OF U.S. 2ND DIVISION EQUIPMENT AND SUFFICIENT FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS.

5. BECAUSE OF THE UNIQUE ROLE WHICH U.S. GROUND FORCES PLAY IN DETERRING A NORTH KOREAN ATTACK, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT U.S. GROUND COMBAT FORCES BE RETAINED IN KOREA UNTIL THE CURRENT ARMISTIC HAS BEEN SUPERCEDED BY A FORMAL PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA. FINAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE REMAINING U.S. FORCES SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT ONLY AS ONE PART OF THAT PEACE SETTLEMENT.

6. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT DIRECT THE SECRETARY TO INITIATE PROMPT ACTION, LOOKING TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUCH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN WAR. END TEXT. VANCE

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